

Facts of the Week

Week of 11 February

- ❖ After a meeting in Escanaba with a majority of Michigan's Master Loggers and the need to get Master Logger Certification (MLC) program recognized as a nationally and supplier of certified wood, I had a teleconference with Danny Dructor, Executive Director of the American Loggers Council and Crad Jaynes, Executive Director of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association as well as the ALC Master Logger Committee Chair regarding ALC's efforts in getting national recognition for the MLC. They indicated that they have had conversation with David Refkin of Time, Inc., and have not had much success in getting his blessing. ALC has also been working with the Sustainable Forestry Board regarding this recognition. The SFB has been conducting a study that is evaluating all the current logger certification programs and their role with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. It is our hope that SFB will choose the Master Logger Certification program. We will keep you posted on any new developments.
- ❖ I prepared comments for the newly released draft of the State Forest Management Plan. Comments focused on the need for a sustainable allowable harvest level that we can expect to come from our state forest. There will also be a need for allowable harvest level for biomass material as our industry looks for other markets. We feel that the numbers would be beneficial to potential businesses and investors who are looking to establish new wood product/energy facilities in Michigan. If we do not have such numbers and neighboring states do, then potential new investors may choose to locate somewhere other than Michigan. We also commented on the limited time that was provided to review this 280 plus page document and provide comments within 15 days and the Director of DNR was going to act on this plan during the March meeting. You can find our comments on our website.
- ❖ Rest of the week was spent working in my office.

Week of 18 February

- ❖ I have been appointed to the Forest Management Advisory Council (FMAC) and attended my first meeting. One concern of the group was the short amount of time that was given for reviewing the new draft of the Forest Management Plan. A motion was presented and passed to recommend extending the public comment period for the Forest Management Plan and asked the Director of DNR not to act on this plan in the March meeting. We were also able to revise and adopt the new by-laws of this group. This group will be meeting 6 times a year to address various forest management topics.
- ❖ Continued to work with Rowleys and Van Manen on the lubricant and diesel fuel program for the Michigan Wood Producers Cooperative. It is our hope to have these two programs up and running by the Convention. I am also looking at other companies to partner with in providing diesel fuel discounts.

Week of 18 February

- ❖ Was invited to attend a Bio-Economy Summit in Escanaba. This meeting was pulled together by Michigan State and Michigan Tech Universities. The goal of this meeting was to see what these two Universities can do to help our industry develop our bio-economy. They divided the group into three different sections; bio-mass production (forest lands), bio-mass suppliers (Loggers and Mills) and bio-mass utilization and conversion. A need that came forward was the lack of data regarding bio-mass availability and where it would come from. The group felt that the universities could help in gathering this data and putting it into a user friendly form and then make it available to our industry. We will put some of the conference outcomes on our website when they become available.
- ❖ I was in Lansing and visited several legislator offices. One stop was Senator Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leenau, and I indicated to her staff that we would provide written testimony to her office before the March 11 hearing on the DNR Budget. She plans to take testimony and report out the DNR budget bill on that date. The Governor's Senate DNR budget bill also does not include the cord mandate. Chief of staff to McManus promised us that the cord mandate would be inserted in the bill before the March 11 hearing if the board supports having it added back into the bill.

We met with staff to Senator Jerry VanWoerkom, W-Muskegon and the LSB bill drafter to fine tune legislation to clarify current law regarding hauling a slasher down the road. I have forwarded a draft of this bill to Lt. Ford, Motor Carrier for his approval. Later we met with Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, Chair of the House Transportation Committee to explain in detail HB 5675, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Mayes, D-Bay City. The bill eliminates tie downs for 70 foot crib trailers. He told us that he would try to bring the bill up for committee debate before the House spring recess or immediately after their recess. Judy Augustein will start to lobby the 17 member committee for their support. Rep. Mayes and Rep. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba have already discussed the bill with the chair.

Rep. Casperson, Rep. Booher, Judy Augenstein and I finished the day with a dinner meeting to discuss details of our position on the State Forest Management Plan, specifics of our transportation issues and of course--the DNR budget.

- ❖ I was asked to do a presentation on the Michigan Wood Producers Cooperative at the Association of Consulting Foresters meeting in Grayling. I provided an overview of how the Co-op was formed and where we are presently. I indicated to the group that we are now looking for investors.

Reminder

- ❖ Please submit your nominations for the Timbermen Excellence Awards. The deadline is quickly approaching. Also, if you are interested in sitting on the Board you need to submit your letter of interest. There will be vacant positions for Regions 1, 2, and 4; this is your opportunity to get involved. The convention this year will be at Boyne Mountain Resort, home of Avalanche Bay, Michigan's largest indoor water park. If your children are like mine they are ready for some summer time activities and this

year's convention can satisfy some of those needs. The second mailing will be going out soon regarding our Convention. Get those registrations mailed in as soon as you can.

- ❖ We will be having two meetings regarding Emerald Ash Borer and the quarantine that has been implemented in the U.P. These meetings will discuss the quarantine and what you will have to do to operate and haul products out of the quarantine area. Remember the only wood products that are regulated are Ash products; all other hardwood and softwood species have no restrictions. The only exception is firewood, you cannot move firewood out of the quarantine area, and firewood is considered anything shorter than four feet in length. After these two meetings, compliance agreements will be provided to those who wish to get one. The meetings will be March 12 and 13 in Newberry (Comfort Inn) and St Ignace (Quality Inn), respectively and run from 7pm to 9pm.

Upcoming Events

NRC Meeting	06 March	Lansing MI
EAB Meeting	12 March	Newberry MI
EAB Meeting	13 March	St Ignace MI
MAT Truck & Logger Training	18 March	Grayling MI
MAT Truck & Logger Training	02 April	Baraga MI
ALC Spring Board Meeting	03 – 05 April	Washington DC
MAT Truck & Logger Training	08 April	Soo MI
MI & WI Logger Conference	18 April	Escanaba MI
MAT Convention	24 – 26 April	Boyne Falls MI